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Committee for Programme and Coordination

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Agenda item 8

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Valery Zhdanovich (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3(b))

Programme 17

Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 12th meeting, on 23 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 17)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Full support was expressed for programme 17 and all its subprogrammes. The work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) as a centre of excellence was also commended. It was observed that ECLAC played a key role in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration. The important role of ECLAC in eradicating poverty and hunger, enhancing regional integration and social cohesion and strengthening gender mainstreaming in public policies was also emphasized. It was noted that the role and work of the Commission in mobilizing public opinion and in supporting the



countries of the region in their efforts to attain the Millennium Declaration Goals should be strengthened.

4. The view was expressed that, in implementing the thematic priorities of the Commission, the development of small island developing States in the Caribbean region should be brought into sharper focus, in accordance with the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

5. It was observed that the Commission, while promoting regional integration and cooperation, also provided valuable analytical, normative and operational support. The very positive role of the regular programme of technical cooperation as an operational component of the ECLAC subprogrammes was stressed. The importance of ECLAC training programmes, especially for promoting employment and the development of human capital in the region, was emphasized. The view was expressed that the links between the sustainable development of Caribbean small island developing States and their training requirements under subprogrammes 8 and 12 should be elaborated on further.

6. Regarding subprogramme 1, strategies designed for strengthening the capacities of the countries of the region in trade negotiations were welcomed.

7. It was observed that under subprogramme 2, more emphasis should be placed on joint work with other entities, such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the importance of knowledge-based instruments and assets should be stressed.

8. It was noted that under subprogramme 3, indicator of achievement (a) on increased percentage of users should specifically refer to competent authorities.

9. The view was expressed that under subprogramme 4, the work on the eradication of poverty and reduction of social inequalities should be expedited and strengthened. It was also stressed that the eradication of poverty was the joint responsibility of all partners.

10. The strategy of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment under subprogramme 5 was supported. It was observed, in that regard, that gender equality was a catalyst for social change.

11. As to subprogramme 6, satisfaction was expressed with highlighting the migration issues in the strategy part.

12. The view was expressed that reference to the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States should be included in the strategy of subprogramme 8.

13. It was observed that under subprogramme 9, more emphasis should be placed on training in the sustainable use of energy and renewable energy sources.

14. The view was expressed that the formulation of expected accomplishments under subprogramme 12 did not adequately address the requirements of the subregion and should be strengthened. It was also observed that there was a dire need to strengthen national capacities in disaster preparedness and prevention. The importance of using experience gained by other entities in the area of disaster preparedness was stressed.

Conclusions and recommendations

15. The Committee noted with appreciation the strategic framework for ECLAC under programme 17, which took into consideration the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, and highlighted the Commission's role in formulating appropriate measures to promote the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean and the greater integration of the region in the global economy. In that context, the Committee recognized the importance of the regional perspective in implementing those goals and emphasized the need to strengthen the programmes and activities conducted by the Commission's subregional and country offices seeking to achieve sustainable, inclusive and equitable development in the region.

16. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 17.3

At the end of the second sentence, add the words "and the problems of the current international economic order".

In the fourth sentence, after the word "vulnerabilities", replace the words "are intimately related to" with the words "represent essential causes of".

Subprogrammes 1, 3, 4, 5 and 12

In the second sentence of paragraphs 17.6, 17.9, 17.11, 17.13 and 17.26, replace the words "the Millennium Declaration" with "the United Nations major conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including those set forth in the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome".

Subprogramme 5

Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (a), replace the words "both the Millennium Declaration and the regional consensus" with "the United Nations major conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including those set forth in the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the relevant regional consensus".

Subprogramme 8

Sustainable development and human settlements

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the end of accomplishment (b), after the words "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change", add "and the Mauritius

Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

Subprogramme 12

Subregional activities in the Caribbean

Paragraph 17.26

In the last sentence, after the words "Common Market," insert the words "the Regional Negotiating Machinery, the Caribbean Development Bank ,".